

California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center Newsletter



2nd Annual American Indian Studies Research Symposium

April 19, 2024

On Friday April 19th, the CSUSM American Indian Studies Department held its second annual symposium. The event celebrated the achievements of students, faculty, staff, and alumni. It featured an impressive range of research that benefits our communities, including art exhibitions, initiatives on food sovereignty, toolkits for decolonizing diets, healthcare access for AIAN communities, and programs addressing waste from tobacco, e-cigarettes, and cannabis. Other highlights included projects on science service, the Native American Caucus, career development, and political participation. During the symposium, we recognized two distinguished American Indian alumni: Dr. Temet McMichael from the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians who received the Alumni Service to Society Award, and Keely Linton from the Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians was honored with the Alumni Impact Award. We also paid tribute to The Myers Family (Pomo) and commemorated Raquelle "Kelly" Myers by presenting the first Kelly Myers Tribal Justice Scholarships to three deserving students. Additionally, we celebrated Laura Romero, the former AIS Academic Coordinator, for her outstanding dedication to the AIS Department.



Cougar Blue Days

April 6, 2024



Cougar Blue Days is an event where incoming students get the opportunity to learn about CSUSM and what programs and clubs our campus offers. The President of AISA, Virginia Aguilar, along with other members of AISA, helped build more community with outside Native students to bring into our growing circle. AISA brought more awareness to the group and the CICSC, as well as growing the presence of Native students. The CICSC also hosted an open house, for visitors to come tour the center and talk to some of our faculty and students.

Social Innovation Challenge

April 18, 2024

The Innovation Hub at CSU San Marcos hosts an Innovation Challenge every academic year for students to submit their proposals based upon the theme that year. This year the theme was:

Reimagine Higher Education. AISA member Isaiah Chantaca wrote a paper for this challenge named: Building Native Community Through Mentorship.

Bringing a twist on the Big Brother, Big Sister Program for Native students who are entering higher education, building a community by letting them know that there are Native students on campus. Isaiah won the first place prize of \$1,000 dollars. After a total of fifty-two applicants, Isaiah was one of the nine finalists to then present their paper to a panel of judges which consisted of faculty, staff, and even students.



AIS 230 Artist Showcase

April 12, 2024



AIS 230 American Indian Art and Contemporary Issues proudly hosted several contemporary Native American artists during the spring 2024 semester, including Comanche painter Nocona Burgess, Cherokee potter Karin Walkingstick, Tongva and Acjachemen painter Monica Zavala, Omaha ledger artist Eddie Encinas, Dine photographer Eugene Tapahe, and Choctaw multiple genre artist Kristin Gentry. Each semester cutting edge Native artists join AIS 230 to share their work, artistic philosophy and expertise. Prior to the Covid Epidemic one or two guest artists might join class in person. Following the pandemic, the zoom platform allowed for the expansion of presentations.

Artists from New York to New Mexico join our class in real time. Past presenters include Santa Clara and Apache sculptor Upton Ethelbah, Seneca Lacrosse stick artist Dr. Rodney Haring, Ft. Independence Paiute painter Karma Henry, Comanche ledger artist Wakeah Jhane, Comanche filmmaker Jhane Myers, Dine film producer Jennifer Johns Himmelreich, Caddo beadwork artist Yonouea Hawkins, Taos Pueblo glass artist Ira Lujan, Dine weaver Gerard Begay, and Payomkawichum film maker Dr. Joely Proudfit. These artists provide AIS 230 students with the unique opportunity to witness the work of Native art forms that reflect both cultural tradition and contemporary innovation.

All Tribes School Visit

April 4, 2024

All Tribes Charter School came to the CICSC for a campus tour held by AISA students and CICSC student researchers to learn about CSUSM, the CICSC, AISA, and the AIS major. The kids were given an interactive presentation of what the CICSC is and stands for, were informed about what AISA does and the events held, and they also got to walk the campus and view Monica Zavala's artwork within the CSUSM library! The kids also got to see Tukwut, CSUSM's mascot!



Q&A

Q: What sports does CSUSM offer?

A: CSUSM offers a variety of sports including baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball, lacrosse, and flag football!

Q: What type of events does AISA hold?

A: AISA has held many events including beading workshops, a jean jacket workshop, a storytelling night, and Pow Wow workshops just to name a few.

Q: What is it like living in the dorms?

A: The dorms are nice; you have your own kitchen and bathroom, compared to other campuses that are mainly communal. Also the dorms encourage creating relationships with other students.

Q: Is Powwow dancing only for women?

A: There are many types of dances performed at Powwows, meaning anyone is able to dance. However, some dances, like bird dancing, is typically performed by women dancers



Save the Dates

May 17th - American
Indian Graduate
Honoring Ceremony
@ 11am at the
SBSB Courtyard



November 8th -
California Indian College
Motivation Day @ 1pm
at CSUSM



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